

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method of managing digital content licenses, the method comprising:
2 creating a first license having a first cardinality, the license created by a license
3 management device;
4 storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command
5 from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is
6 determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;
7 storing the first license in first digital content; and
8 authorizing playback of the first digital content with the first set of playback
9 devices.

1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 storing the first license in second digital content; and
3 authorizing playback of the second digital content with the first set of playback
4 devices.

1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
2 creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the
3 license management device;

4 storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second
5 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and
6 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;
7 storing the second license in second digital content;
8 authorizing playback of the second digital content with the second set of playback
9 devices.

1 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is fixed.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is variable.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the cardinality is unlimited.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of playback
2 devices is a hardware playback device.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of playback
2 devices is a software player.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital content is audio digital
2 programming.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital content is audio/visual
2 digital programming.

1 11. A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences of
2 instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause the one or more
3 processors to:
4 create a first license with a license management device, the first license having a
5 first cardinality;
6 store the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command
7 from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is
8 determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;
9 store the first license in first digital content; and
10 authorize playback of the first digital content with the first set of playback
11 devices.

1 12. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising sequences
2 of instructions that when executed cause the one or more processors to:
3 store the first license in second digital content; and
4 authorize playback of the second digital content with the first set of playback
5 devices.

1 13. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising sequences
2 of instructions that when executed cause the one or more processors to:

3 create a second license in the license management device, the second license
4 having a second cardinality;
5 store the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second
6 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality, and
7 further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second set;
8 store the second license in second digital content;
9 authorize playback of the second digital content with the second set of playback
10 devices.

1 14. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the cardinality is
2 fixed.

1 15. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the cardinality is
2 variable.

1 16. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the cardinality is
2 unlimited.

1 17. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least one of the first
2 set of playback devices is a hardware playback device.

1 18. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least one of the first
2 set of playback devices is a software player.

1 19. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first digital content
2 is audio digital programming.

1 20. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first digital content
2 is audio/visual digital programming.

1 21. An apparatus for digital license management, the apparatus comprising:
2 means for creating a first license in a license management device, the first license
3 having a first cardinality;
4 means for storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a
5 command from the license management device;
6 means for storing the first license in first digital content; and
7 means for authorizing playback of the first digital content with the first set of
8 playback devices.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 means for storing the first license in second digital content; and
3 means for authorizing playback of the second digital content with the first set of
4 playback devices.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:
2 means for creating a second license in the license management device;

3 means for storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein
4 at least one playback device from the second set of playback devices is included in the
5 first set of playback devices;
6 means for storing the second license in second digital content; and
7 means for authorizing playback of the second digital content with the second set
8 of playback devices.